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ABSTRACT

A survey of special education class size completed by 70% of the states resulted in tables depicting class size guidelines for a number of types of handicapping conditions: hearing impairments, multiple handicaps, mental retardation, orthopedic handicaps, profound handicaps, serious emotional disturbance, speech/language disability, and visual handicaps. Some states reported a range of class size, with the lower number representing younger students and the upper number representing older students. Average class size for hearing impaired/deaf was 8, multihandicapped 8, mentally retarded 11, orthopedically handicapped 10, profoundly handicapped 6, seriously emotionally disturbed 8, speech and language disabled 10, and visually handicapped/blind 9. The survey form is appended. (CL)

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ED232421

# NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION - CAUCUS OF EDUCATORS OF EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

## CLASS SIZE SURVEY

### PURPOSE OF SURVEY

To investigate states' special education class size guidelines, where they exist. The Caucus hoped that the resulting information would prove valuable in gaining a broad picture of the programs provided in special education nationally.

### METHODOLOGY

The National Education Association, Caucus of Educators of Exceptional Children authorized the survey at the National Convention of the N.E.A. in Los Angeles, July, 1982. The request to each state director of special education was sent out in August, 1982 (copies attached).

Seventy percent of the states responded with information on their special education class size guidelines; the information they provided was recorded by category of handicapping conditions. A summary of class size averages follows at the end of the report.

### LIMITATIONS OF SURVEY

Although only 70% of the states responded, no follow-up was done, so there is no information on the states not heard from. The results from this survey should be viewed as a pilot survey, The goal of the Caucus is to continue to do continued studies in this area.

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EC 160030

# Recommended Special Education Class Size Survey

1982

NEA CAUCUS OF EDUCATORS OF EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

HI: hearing impaired/deaf
MH: multihandicapped
MR: mentally retarded
OH: orthopedically handicapped
PH: profoundly handicapped
SED: seriously emotionally disturbed
SL: speech/language disabled
VH: visually handicapped

CLASS SIZE RECOMMENDED FOR:

| STATE | HI | MH | MR | OH | PH | SED | SL | VH | NONE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alaska | ..... | | | | | | | | X |
| Arkansas | 8-10 | 10 | 10-15 | 10 | 5 | 8 | 10-15 | 5 | |
| California | ..... | | | | | | | | X |
| Colorado | 4-8 | 8-10 | 8-15 | 8 | | 8 | 8 | 8-10 | |
| Connecticut | ..... | | | | | | | | X |
| Delaware | 4 | | 6-15 | 6 | 6 | 10 | | 4 | |
| Florida | 8 | | 10-15 | 8 | 5-10 | 8-10 | 5-10 | 10 | |
| Georgia | 8 | 6 | 6-14 | 10 | 6 | 8-10 | 20 | 12 | |
| Hawaii | 5-8 | 5 | 8-12 | 8 | 5 | 8 | | 5-8 | |
| Illinois | 8-17 | 5-10 | 10-15 | 8-13 | 5-10 | 8-13 | 8-13 | 8-17 | |
| Iowa | 8-15 | | 8-15 | 8-15 | 5 | 5 | 8-15 | 8-15 | |
| Kansas | 6-8 | 8 | 15 | | 6 | 8 | | | |
| Kentucky | | 5-10 | 5-20 | 8-16 | 3-8 | 5-15 | 3-6 | 5-10 | |
| Louisiana | 4-17 | 4-7 | 6-19 | 4-13 | 4-7 | 2-7 | 2-7 | 4-13 | |
| Maine | | | 6-12 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 5-8 | | |

| STATE | HI | MH | MR | OH | PH | SED | SL | VH | NONE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Maryland | | 6-9 | 6-9 | 6-9 | 7 | 6-9 | | | |
| Mass. | ..... | | | | | | | | X |
| Michigan | 7 | 9 | 15 | 15 | | 10 | | 8 | |
| Minnesota | 8 | | 8 | 8 | 6 | 6 | | 8 | |
| Missouri | 6-10 | | 8-20 | 8-15 | | 6-10 | 6-10 | 6-10 | |
| Nebraska | 10 | | 10 | 12 | | 10 | 16 | 10 | |
| Nevada | 6 | 6 | 10-12 | 6 | 6 | 10 | 6 | 6 | |
| New Jersey | 8 | 8 | 15 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 8 | |
| New York | 10-15 | 12 | 10-18 | 10-15 | 5 | 6-10 | | 10-15 | |
| N.Carolina | 409 | 6-12 | 6-16 | 12 | 6-12 | 8 | 12 | 4-10 | |
| Oklahoma | 3-15 | 3-10 | 3-15 | 3-15 | 3-10 | 3-10 | | 3-15 | |
| Pa. | 5-8 | | 8-15 | 6-12 | 4-8 | 6-12 | 5-8 | 5-12 | |
| Rhode Il. | | 6 | 8-10 | | 6 | | | | |
| S.Dakota | 8-10 | 8-10 | 8-10 | 8-10 | 3-4 | 8-10 | 8-10 | 8-10 | |
| Tennessee | ..... | | | | | | | | X |
| Texas | 3-8 | | | | | | | | |
| Virginia | 8-10 | 6-8 | 12-16 | 8-10 | | 8-10 | | | |
| Washington D.C. | ..... | | | | | | | | X |
| W.Virginia | 8 | | 15 | | 6 | 6 | | 10 | |

| STATE | HI | MH | MR | OH | PH | SED | SL | VH | NONE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wisconsin | 5-10 | | 7 | 7-10 | 5 | 7 | 12 | 5-8 | |
| Wyoming | ..... | | | | | | | | X |

Where a range exists for class size, usually the smaller recommended size is for the younger populations, with older students in the upper limit sized classes.

Data was tabulated into like categories as exactingly as possible.

The averages, for those reporting class sizes, were:

| | |
|---|---|
| Hearing impaired/deaf: . . 8 | Profoundly handicapped: . . . . . 6 |
| Multihandicapped . . . . . 8 | Seriously emotionally disturbed:. 8 |
| Mentally retarded: . . . . 11 | Speech and language disabled: . . 10 |
| Orthopedically handicapped:10 | Visually handicapped/blind: . . . 9 |

Seventy percent (70%) of all states replied to the survey's initial request for information.

Susan November
Los Angeles County Education Association
1441 East Valley Boulevard
Alhambra, California 91801

Prepared for NEA Caucus of
Educators of Exceptional Children

SN:eg

December 1982

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
1441 East Valley Boulevard • Alhambra, California 91801 • (213) 289-7261

August 12, 1982

Dear State Director of Special Education:

The National Education Association's Caucus of Educators of Exceptional Children (NEA/CEEC) is conducting a survey of member states for information on special education class sizes.

We would appreciate your time in completing the enclosed survey form and returning it as soon as possible.

Thank you for your contribution to our project. Please contact us if we can send you any additional information about our Caucus group.

Sincerely yours,

Susan November

Susan November
NEA Caucus of Educators of
Exceptional Children

SN:eg

Copies to Executive Board,
NEA/CEEC



LACEA is an affiliate of California Teachers Association and National Education Association

# *NEA/Caucus of Educators of Exceptional Children*

## Class Size Survey

1. Does your state have recommended special education class size guidelines?

   Yes _____ No _____

   Comments: _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

2. What categories of special education classes does your state utilize, and what are their recommended sizes?

   | CATEGORY | CLASS SIZE |
   |---|---|
   | | |
   | | |
   | | |
   | | |
   | | |
   | | |
   | | |
   | | |
   | | |

3. Does your state have regulations governing class size for both regular and special education classes? (A copy of your state regulations or guidelines would be very helpful to us.)

Please return, in the enclosed envelope, to:

*Susan November*
*NEA/Caucus of Educators of Exceptional Children*
*% Los Angeles County Education Association*
*1441 East Valley Boulevard*
*Alhambra, California 91801*

August 1982